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SOURCE Svenska Dagbladet.

HUNGARIAN LUTHERAN BISHOP FREED;
NEW POLICE ACTIVITY REPORTED

ORDASS REMOVED FROM CHURCH OFFICE -- Svenska Dagbladet, No 143, 31 May 50

Budapest, 30 May -- Lutheran Bishop Lajos Ordass, who in September 1948 was sentenced by a Hungarian court to 2 years' imprisonment for "currency manipulation," was freed in a surprise move on 30 May.

The highest authority of the Lutheran Church in Hungary had, as was announced at the time, removed him from office on 2 April 1950, and a few days later submitted a petition for the bishop's pardon to the Presidential Council of the Hungarian People's Republic. It was learned from well-informed sources at that time that Ordass was to be freed.

In a communique on the bishop's release on 30 May, it was stated that the Minister of Justice ordered that the bishop henceforth be free, as the latter himself had requested pardon for the four remaining months of his sentence.

As is known, Swedish Lutheran circles had also urged that Bishop Ordass be freed and had taken various steps in this direction. -- Budapest Correspondent.

* * *

Bishop Lajos Ordass was removed from office in Budapest on 2 April by a "special disciplinary court." In the leadership of the Hungarian Lutheran Church, which now contains a number of laymen and pastors sympathetic to Communism, headed by the new Inspector General and bitter foe of Ordass, Dr Ivan Rebk, there appears to have been an attempt for a long time to secure Ordass' ouster, as he stubbornly resisted the efforts of these men to turn the church into a Communist instrument. According to well-informed sources, Bishop Ordass on several occasions had the opportunity to escape from prison, and on various occasions he was visited by fellow bishops who had permitted themselves to be deceived by Dr Rebk's pious propaganda that it was most

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Christian for the church to abstain from politics and to devote itself to evangelizing. These visitors sought to influence Bishop Ordass into voluntarily abdicating, which would make the whole matter much simpler. When this failed, the imprisoned church leader was removed from his high office for "breach of discipline" against his church.

NEW WAVE OF ARRESTS -- Svenska Dagbladet, No 139, 26 May 50

Vienna, 25 May -- The Hungarian political police have arrested the mother of the former world champion figure skater, Ede Kiraly, it is reported by reliable sources in Vienna. The charges have not been made public. Kiraly remained in England as a refugee after the world championship match in March. Among others arrested are the general secretary of the Hungarian Automobile Club, Eduard Endauer, a prominent lawyer, Dr Nikolaus Lazar, and the famous orthopedist, Dr Nandor Zinner, who was reported to be close to death after mistreatment in prison. He was seized while trying to escape from Hungary.

A well-informed source reported that Cardinal Mindszenty has now been returned to a prison near Budapest after a "recreation visit" in Tata, east of Budapest.

SET UP RESTRICTED ZONE ALONG YUGOSLAV BORDER -- Svenska Dagbladet, No 144, 1 Jun 50

Budapest, 31 May -- The Hungarian Minister of the Interior announced on 31 May that a restricted zone 16 kilometers wide has been established along the Yugoslav border. The zone may be entered after 1 July only with a special police pass. Exception has been made for the cities of Szeged and Nagykanizsa, which are near the border.

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